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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4606

December 4, 2020

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
304 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
437 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
2365 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1026 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairwoman Lowey, and Ranking Member Granger:

As negotiations on an omnibus appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2021 move forward, we urge you to prioritize funding for endometriosis research in the upcoming fiscal year. Specifically, we ask that you increase funding for the National Institute of Health National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) to at least the levels included in the House-passed bill as well as include report language that includes endometriosis as an eligible condition under the Department of Defense Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP).

Endometriosis affects about one in ten women, can cause intense pain, and is a leading cause of infertility. Despite its prevalence and health impacts, too little funding has been dedicated toward better understanding, diagnosing, and treating this condition. Many women who live with endometriosis go for years, seeing multiple doctors and even spending thousands of dollars, before they can get a diagnosis and treatment. Women with endometriosis lose an average of six hours of productivity per week at work and the condition is estimated to cost over \$78 billion

annually in healthcare expenditures and lost productivity. Medical research is the key to finding better ways to diagnose and treat this common and life-altering condition.

As part of our effort to bolster endometriosis research, the House of Representatives passed HR 8337, which increased the funding for endometriosis research within NICHD to \$26 million, allowing the agency to double its investment in endometriosis research over the previous year. The amendment increasing the funding level passed the House unanimously. The appropriations measure put forth by the Senate also includes increases in NICHD funding. This is undoubtedly an area for bipartisan agreement, and we ask that funding for NICHD be increased to no less than the level included in the House-passed bill.

We also ask that the final package come with language including endometriosis as an eligible condition under the PRMRP in FY 2021. We are concerned by the report put forth by the Senate Appropriations Committee, which does not include endometriosis among the conditions eligible. In FY 2018, the first year that endometriosis was eligible for funding, nine endometriosis research projects received grants totaling over \$9 million. To see endometriosis included in FY 2018 and FY 2020, then cut the following fiscal year hurts advancement in endometriosis research. When research funding is low or inconsistent for a medical condition, it is difficult to attract researchers to specialize in that condition or apply for related research grants and we respectfully ask that you reinstate endometriosis as an eligible condition for FY 2021.

Researchers specializing in endometriosis need to know that strong funding will be available for their work from year to year to ensure they can continue efforts to better understand the condition. Robust research funding for endometriosis will improve the health and lives of women across the country and around the world.

Given the important roles of your respective committees in advancing medical research, we thank you for the consideration of our funding requests for endometriosis research.

Sincerely,



Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress



Mitt Romney
Senator



Jenniffer González-Colón
Member of Congress



Elizabeth Warren
Senator

_____/S/_____
Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Kirsten Gillibrand
Senator

_____/S/_____
Haley Stevens
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Colin Allred
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Kathleen Rice
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
David Scott
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Cindy Axne
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

_____/S/_____
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress